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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 18, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 13 totaled an estimated 19.1 billion ton-miles, 2.4 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 50 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 884 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 13 totaled 461,758 cars, 1.2 percent below 1979, but 3.1 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 0.1 percent in the East, 0.5 percent in the South, and 2.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 123,075 cars, 8.6 percent over last year, and the highest individual week since November 23, 1963. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 6 totaled 30,977 cars, down 16.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 56,032 trailers and/or containers, 13.7 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 49 weeks of the year was 1,571,497 cars, 10.8 percent lower than last year, and 2,853,368 trailers and/or containers, down 8.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/13/80:

	Loadings in Week ended December 13, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,423	D	3,615	11.3	D	4,227	12.9
Other farm products	6,160	I	1,088	21.5	D	125	2.0
Metallic ores	34,355	I	2,162	6.7	I	1,399	4.2
Coal	123,075	I	9,794	8.6	I	9,213	8.1
Crusned stone, gravel and sand	11,947	D	2,854	13.3	D	409	3.3
Nonmetallic minerals	14,280	D	60	0.4	I	935	7.0
Grain mill products	17,010	D	1,231	6.7	I	473	2.9
Food and kindred products	17,092	D	1,770	9.4	I	218	1.3
Primary forest products	19,920	D	1,526	7.1	D	188	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,968	D	1,242	12.2	I	804	9.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,811	D	647	3.0	I	31	0.1
Chemicals and allied products	29,839	I	1,583	5.6	I	437	1.5
Petroleum products	5,757	D	864	13.0	D	41	0.7
Stone, clay and glass products	15,058	D	1,569	9.4	D	252	21.2
Coke	5,569	I	217	4.1	D	355	6.0
Metals and products	15,870	D	676	4.1	D	462	2.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,241	D	418	2.0	I	1,636	8.8
Waste and scrap materials	14,073	I	530	3.9	I	1,407	11.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,762	D	1,923	15.2	I	930	9.5
All other carloads	42,237	D	2,848	6.3	I	2,501	6.3
LCL traffic	311	I	65	26.4	I	62	24.9
Total Cars Loaded	461,758	D	5,804	1.2	I	13,987	3.1
Corresponding week of 1979	467,562						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (50 weeks)	21,868,529	23,126,110	D	5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
49 weeks cumulative	865.0	864.3	I	0.1
Week ended December 13	19.1	18.7	I	2.4
50 weeks cumulative	884.2	883.0	I	0.1

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